darkhorse
originals
1 OF 4
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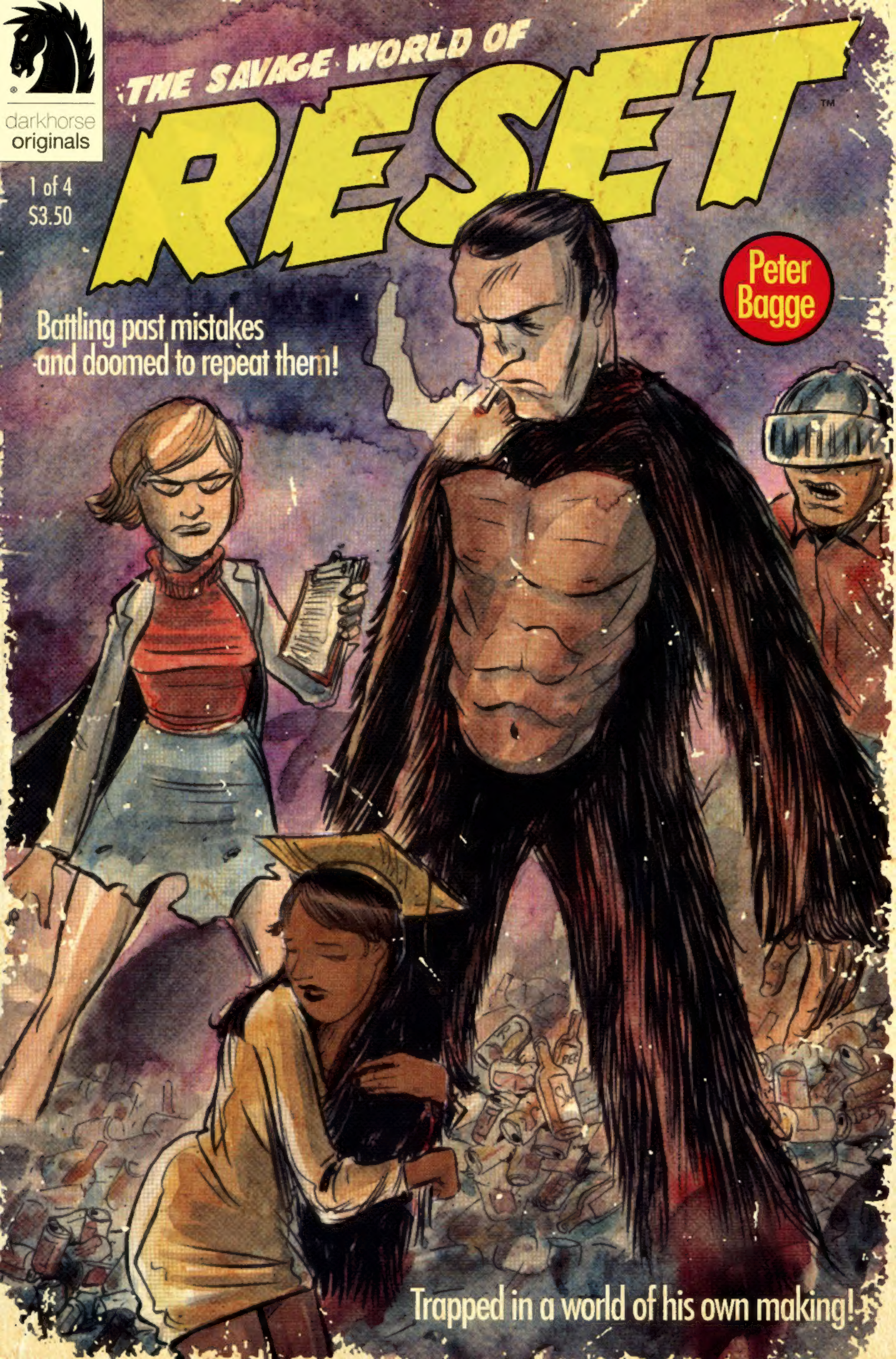
RESET™
BY PETER BAGGE
P. BAGGE '11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THE SAVAGE WORLD OF
RESET™
Peter Bagge
Battling past mistakes and doomed to repeat them!
Trapped in a world of his own making!

RESET™

STORY AND ART
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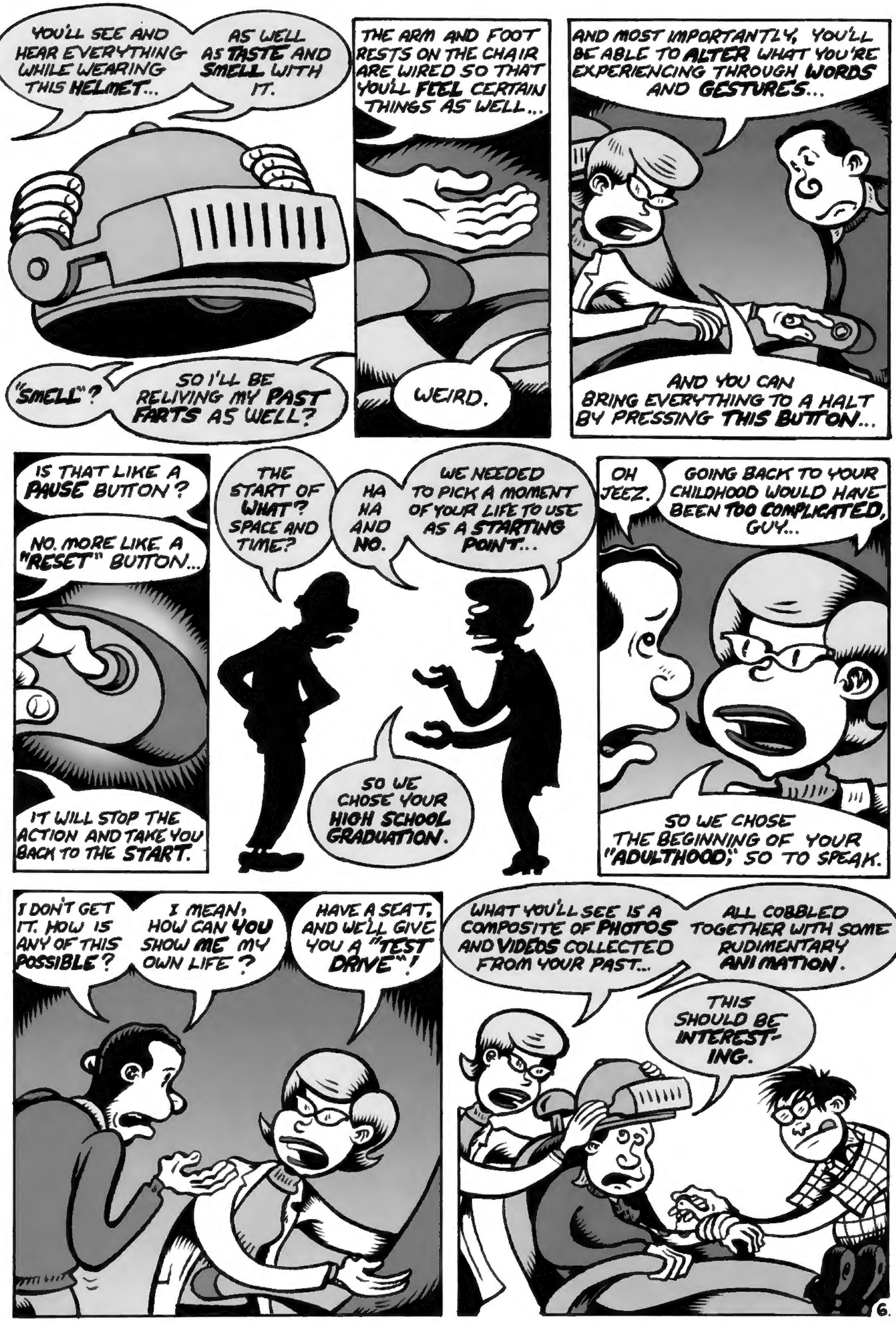
RESET
BY P. BAGGE © 2011
SOMEWHERE IN LOS ANGELES, CA...
SORRY IF THIS FILM WAS A BIT TOO GORY FOR SOME OF YOU...
HIGHWAY MAYHEM
THE END
BUT HEY, IT'S BETTER THAN DOING JAIL TIME, RIGHT?
D.U.I. CLASS SCHEDULE
(SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, PAL).
HEH HEH!
RETCH
STILL CRACKING WISE, EH MR. KRAUSE?
I GUESS YOU FAILED TO NOTICE THAT THIS ISN'T A COMEDY CLUB...
HEY! YESTERDAY YOU TOLD ME NOT TO EXPECT ANY "SPECIAL CELEBRITY TREATMENT"!
BUT YOU'VE BEEN SINGLING ME OUT FOR SPECIAL CELEBRITY HUMILIATION EVER SINCE!
SERVES YOU RIGHT, BIG SHOT!
YOU CELEBS THINK YOU HAVE A GOD GIVEN RIGHT TO DRIVE DRUNK-
I WASN'T DRUNK!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU WERE CONVICTED OF "ROAD RAGE"...
AS IF THAT'S SOMEHOW BETTER.
AT LEAST I NEVER GOT PULLED OVER WHEN I DID DRIVE DRUNK!
NEXT EVENING...
...IN ONE INSTANT THAT DRUNK WIPED OUT MY ENTIRE FAMILY...
I LOST EVERYTHING IN ONE FELL SWOOP...
...DON'T WIPE OUT SOME GUY'S FAMILY IN ONE FELL SWOOP... GOT IT...
(EXCUSE ME, BUT ARE YOU THEE GUY KRAUSE?)
UH OH. STALKER AT THREE O'CLOCK...
(THAT'S MY NAME, THOUGH I HARDLY QUALIFY AS A "THEE" ANYMORE..)
(OH, I DIDN'T)—
THAT'S ALL FOR TONIGHT, FOLKS...
I EXPECT TO SEE ALL OF YOU SCOFFLAWS HERE THE SAME TIME TOMORROW!
SO IF IT'S MY AUTOGRAPH YOU'RE AFTER, DON'T EXPECT TO GET MUCH FOR IT ON EBAY.
OH, NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL!
WHAT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL?
I, UH, WANTED TO RUN A BUSINESS PROPOSITION BY YOU...
IF IT INVOLVES AN UNFUNDED INDIE FLICK I'M NOT INTERESTED.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SHOW BUSINESS, I ASSURE YOU.
WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE? AMWAY? TIME-SHARES?
NEED SOME-ONE TO WALK YOUR DOG?
IT'S A RESEARCH PROJECT.
2

I, UH... HUH?
I SHOULD INTRODUCE MYSELF. I'M ANGELA MINOR. "ANGIE" FOR SHORT...
I'M A PRIVATE CONSULTANT DOING CONTRACT WORK FOR A SMALL TECH FIRM THAT SPECIALIZES IN—
FASCIN-ATING...
CUT TO THE CHASE, PLEASE.
WELL, THEY'VE DEVELOPED THIS... GAME, FOR LACK OF A BETTER DESCRIPTION...
A GAME, EH? SO THIS IS VOICE-OVER WORK—
NOT AT ALL. THIS IS A VERY DIFFERENT KIND OF GAME...
ONE THAT ALLOWS YOU TO RELIVE YOUR OWN LIFE. VIRTUALLY, THAT IS...
?
I'M LOCKING UP, YOU TWO, SO TAKE YOUR CRUISING ELSEWHERE.
RELIVE MY LIFE, YOU SAY?
YES. VIRTU-ALLY...
LET'S GO!
I SEE. AND YOU FIGURED THE BEST PLACE TO TROLL FOR SOMEONE WHO'D WANT TO RELIVE HIS LIFE IS IN A COURT-ORDERED D.U.I. CLASS.
WELL, YES, BUT—
AND YOU JUST PICKED ME AT RANDOM...
OUT OF A WHOLE ROOM FULL OF LOSERS.
OH, IT WASN'T RANDOM AT ALL.
COLLEGE

WE NEED SOMEONE WE CAN GATHER A LOT OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON...
YOUR CELEBRITY STATUS—
FORMER CELEBRITY STATUS.
—FORMER OR OTHERWISE, IT MAKES THAT TASK A LOT EASIER FOR US.
SO ALL OF THESE FACTORS ADD UP TO YOU BEING AN IDEAL CANDIDATE FOR THIS PROJECT.
HUH. I DUNNO IF I SHOULD BE FLATTERED OR PARANOID.
AND YOU'LL BE WELL COMPENSATED, SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO—
SAY NO MORE. I'M SOLD.
WAIT— REALLY?
DON'T YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE BEFORE YOU COMMIT?
LOOK, I'M FLAT BROKE.
SO UNLESS YOU PLAN ON INJECTING ME WITH DRANO, I'M YOUR MAN.
OH! OKAY, I'LL GET THE PAPERWORK STARTED...
AND THERE'S NO DRANO INVOLVED, I ASSURE YOU!
WILL I BE WORKING WITH YOU ON THIS PROJECT?
YES. WHY?
GOOD! THAT'S JUST AN ADDED BONUS...
SEEING HOW YOU'RE EASY ON THE EYES AND ALL...
DID I SAY THAT OUT LOUD? "WOCKA WOCKA".
"WOCKA WOCKA".
I'LL BE IN TOUCH!
YEESH.. WHAT A SAD SACK...
HE'LL BE PERFECT!
4.

ONE WEEK LATER...
A LAB COAT, ANGIE?
I THOUGHT NO VOLATILE SUBSTANCES WOULD BE INVOLVED.
IT'S JUST AN ANNOYING JOB REQUIREMENT, I'M SORRY TO SAY...
GUY, THIS IS TED.
HEY, GUY. BIG FAN HERE.
COKE
YOU MUST BE THE TECH ASSISTANT.
YUP. RIGHT OUT OF CENTRAL CASTING.
YOU STOLE MY LINE.
SO WHERE'S THE BIG SCREEN?
HOW CAN I RELIVE MY LIFE WITHOUT A SUPER-WIDE 3-D MOVIE SCREEN?
WE WON'T BE NEEDING ONE...
INSTEAD YOU'LL BE WEARING THIS...



YOU'LL SEE AND HEAR EVERYTHING WHILE WEARING THIS HELMET...
AS WELL AS TASTE AND SMELL WITH IT.
"SMELL"?
SO I'LL BE RELIVING MY PAST FARTS AS WELL?
THE ARM AND FOOT RESTS ON THE CHAIR ARE WIRED SO THAT YOU'LL FEEL CERTAIN THINGS AS WELL...
WEIRD.
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ALTER WHAT YOU'RE EXPERIENCING THROUGH WORDS AND GESTURES...
AND YOU CAN BRING EVERYTHING TO A HALT BY PRESSING THIS BUTTON...
IS THAT LIKE A PAUSE BUTTON?
NO, MORE LIKE A "RESET" BUTTON...
IT WILL STOP THE ACTION AND TAKE YOU BACK TO THE START.
THE START OF WHAT? SPACE AND TIME?
HA HA AND NO.
WE NEEDED TO PICK A MOMENT OF YOUR LIFE TO USE AS A STARTING POINT...
SO WE CHOSE YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.
OH JEEZ.
GOING BACK TO YOUR CHILDHOOD WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO COMPLICATED, GUY...
SO WE CHOSE THE BEGINNING OF YOUR "ADULTHOOD," SO TO SPEAK.
I DON'T GET IT. HOW IS ANY OF THIS POSSIBLE?
I MEAN, HOW CAN YOU SHOW ME MY OWN LIFE?
HAVE A SEAT, AND WE'LL GIVE YOU A "TEST DRIVE"!
WHAT YOU'LL SEE IS A COMPOSITE OF PHOTOS AND VIDEOS COLLECTED FROM YOUR PAST...
ALL COBBLED TOGETHER WITH SOME RUDIMENTARY ANIMATION.
THIS SHOULD BE INTEREST-ING.

HOLY SHIT...
LOOK FAMILIAR?
OF COURSE! IT'S MY OLD HIGH SCHOOL!
IT EVEN SMELLS LIKE MY OLD ALMA MATER...
AND I CAN FEEL THAT OLD EAST COAST HUMIDITY!
SCHOOL BUS
CLASS OF 1995
HOW THE HELL DID YOU DO THIS?
THIS IS FUCKING AMAZING...
IT WASN'T EASY, BELIEVE ME...
OKAY, SO NOW WHAT?
LIKE, WHERE'S THE ACTION?
OKAY, NOW ONCE WE SET THINGS IN MOTION YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HEAR US...
YOU'LL BE COMPLETELY IMMERSED IN YOUR VIRTUAL PAST FROM THIS POINT ON...
AND THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN ESCAPE IS IF YOU—
—PUSH THE RESET BUTTON. GOT IT.
ENOUGH PALAVER! LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
I'M READY IF YOU ARE...
OKAY WITH YOU, TED?
TED'S READY! LET'S ROLL!
OKAY... AND... ACTION!

SPAZ.
?!?
STOP THE GAME! STOP IT!
GET THIS THING OFF OF ME!
WHOA! EASY!
?!? WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT WAS GAIL MALONE!
MOTHER-FUCKING GAIL MALONE!
YES, WE KNOW.
BUT... HOW? WHY?
WHAT IS SHE DOING IN THAT HELMET?
YOU USED TO DO A STAND-UP ROUTINE ABOUT HER, REMEMBER?
ALL ABOUT HOW—
OH YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT...
ABOUT HOW SHE NEVER SAID A WORD TO ME UNTIL GRADUATION DAY...
RIGHT.
SHE WAS GORGEOUS, AND SEEMED LIKE A NICE PERSON...
UNTIL SHE SUDDENLY INSULTED ME FOR NO APPARENT REASON...
YES. WE KNOW.
SHE CALLED ME A "SPAZ." I HAVE NO IDEA WHY...
I WAS SO STUNNED THAT I JUST STOOD THERE AND SAID NOTHING...
RIGHT. WE KNOW.

TO THIS DAY I WONDER WHY SHE SAID THAT...
AND NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO FIND OUT!
OH JEEZ... WHO CARES...
CAN'T WE JUST SKIP PAST GAIL MALONE?
UH...NOT REALLY...
?!? WHY NOT?
REMEMBER I TOLD YOU HOW THE GAME HAS TO START AT A CERTAIN POINT?
YEAH? SO?
WAIT A MINUTE— YOU MEAN EVERY TIME I HIT THE RESET BUTTON I HAVE TO GO BACK TO GAIL MALONE CALLING ME A SPAZ?!
I'M AFRAID SO...
BUT... THAT'S STUPID!
NO IT ISN'T! THE IDEA IS TO DISCOURAGE YOU FROM HITTING THAT BUTTON!
WE WANT YOU TO INTERACT IN REAL TIME, AND NOT JUMP AROUND WILLY-NILLY!
BESIDES, THIS COULD BE A GOOD THING FOR YOU!
OH? HOW SO?
WELL, THIS SEEMINGLY MINOR INCIDENT HAS OBVIOUSLY LEFT ITS MARK ON YOU...
ONE COULD SAY IT'S EVEN GIVEN YOU A COMPLEX...
BUT NOW YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO REEXAMINE THAT MOMENT IN A MORE OBJECTIVE LIGHT, SO THAT YOU MAY...
?!?
WHAT?
ARE YOU A SHRINK?

?!? am I a...?
WELL, I DO HAVE A P.H.D. IN PSYCHOLOGY, YES, BUT—
I KNEW IT!
THIS WHOLE THING WAS STARTING TO SOUND VERY SHRINKY-DINK TO ME!
"SHRINKY DINK"?
HOW DO YOU MEAN?
WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE WOULD WANT TO BUY ONE OF THESE THINGS, ONCE YOU'RE DONE TESTING IT ON ME?
"BUY"? I DON'T—
WHO'S YOUR "TARGET AUDIENCE"?
'CUZ I CAN'T IMAGINE SOME KID WANTING A "RELIVE YOUR WORST TRAUMA" MACHINE FOR CHRISTMAS!
GUY, PLEASE! EASY WITH THE EQUIP-MENT!
IF YOU ASK ME THIS IS SOME KIND OF THERAPEUTIC DEVICE...
IT'S LIKE PSYCHOTHERAPY IN 3-D...
THAT CERTAINLY IS ONE POSSIBILITY...
BUT THE TECHNOLOGY IS SO NEW THAT WE HAVEN'T SETTLED ON ANY ONE PARTICULAR USE FOR IT.
YEAH, WELL, WHILE YOU'RE TRYING TO SORT THAT OUT I'M GOING TO BOW OUT.
WHAT?!
YOU MEAN QUIT?
BUT YOU CAN'T!

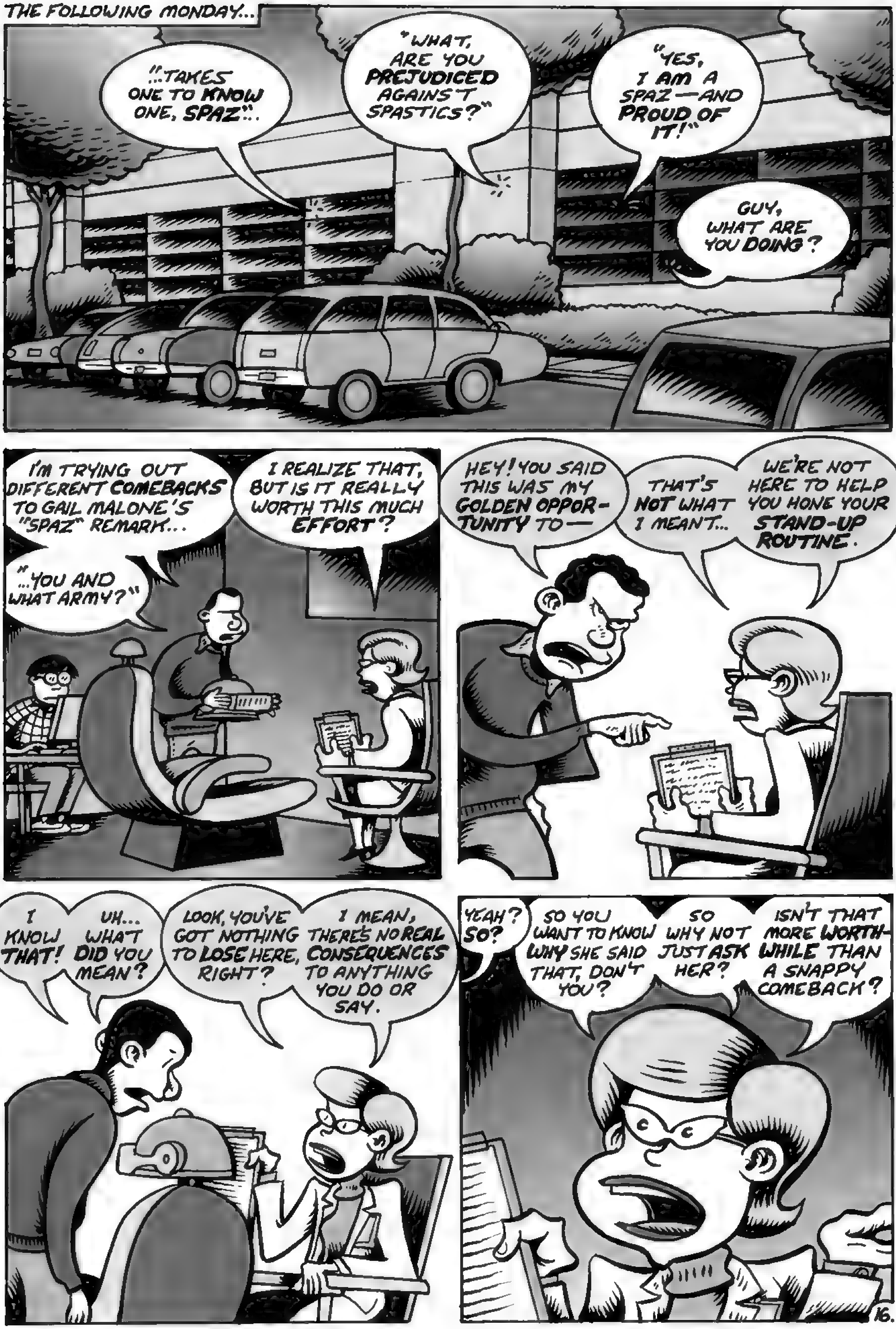
YOU'VE SIGNED AN IRON CLAD CONTRACT!
BIG DEAL. I'VE BROKEN IRON-CLAD CONTRACTS BEFORE...
BESIDES, IT SAID NOTHING ABOUT YOU PUTTING ME ON THE COUCH...
IF IT HAD, I NEVER WOULD HAVE SIGNED IT...
SO IF YOU ASK ME, THAT CONTRACT IS NULL AND VOID!
YOU'RE NOT BEING PSYCHO-ANALYZED, GUY.
I'M SORRY YOU WASTED A LOT OF TIME NOSING INTO MY PAST, BUT THIS IS WHERE I DRAW THE LINE...
I'VE SAT THROUGH COUNTLESS HOURS OF MARRIAGE COUNSELING, AND NOW I'M DIVORCED AND BROKE...
SO I HOPE YOU SEE WHY MY FAITH IN YOUR PROFES-SION IS A BIT SHAKY...
DON'T WORRY, I DON'T EXPECT TO BE PAID FOR TODAY'S "SESSION"...
I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE NOT BILLING ME. GOOD DAY.
?
YOU LET HIM GO?! JUST LIKE THAT?!
AFTER ALL THE TIME AND MONEY THAT'S BEEN SPENT ON THIS PROJECT?!
OH, HE'LL BE BACK.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?!?
BECAUSE HE DESPERATELY NEEDS THE MONEY...
AND HIS CAREER IS EVEN DEADER THAN HE REALIZES.

A FEW DAYS LATER...
OH, THERE YOU ARE...
?!? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU SMOKED!
ONLY WHEN I'M MISERABLE...
WHAT'S UP?
BAD NEWS. THEY GAVE THE PART TO SOME-ONE ELSE.
WHAT?
BUT DRESS REHEARSAL IS IN FIVE MINUTES!
I THOUGHT THE PART WAS MINE!
THEY CAN'T DO THIS!
CAN THEY?
THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO IT, BUT THEY DID IT ANYWAY.
DID YOU AT LEAST ACT ALL AGENT-Y AND YELL AND SCREAM AT THEM?

OF COURSE! I EVEN KICKED OVER A WASTE-PAPER BASKET!
ALL FOR NAUGHT, OBVIOUSLY...
I DON'T GET IT. WHY PULL THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER ME NOW?
I THOUGHT THE ENTIRE SCENE WAS WRITTEN FOR ME!
OKAY, HERE'S THE THING...
THE GAG WAS THAT ONCE YOU TOOK YOUR GORILLA MASK OFF THE AUDIENCE WOULD HOWL WITH LAUGHTER, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
ONLY THE PRODUCERS GOT NERVOUS AND DECIDED TO TEST THE JOKE ON A FOCUS GROUP FIRST...
?!? THEY "FOCUS GROUPED" A SINGLE GAG?
NOT ANY GAG. THE GAG. THE ENTIRE STORY LINE RIDES ON IT...
AND UNFORTUNATELY THE FOCUS GROUP DIDN'T GET THE GAG.
WHY NOT?
WHAT'S NOT TO GET?
THEY DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU, I'M TOLD...
THE SHOW'S DEMOGRAPHIC SKEWERS YOUNG, APPARENTLY.
BUT I'VE ONLY BEEN WASHED UP FOR A YEAR! TWO, TOPS!
WHO WATCHES THIS SHOW? TODDLERS? INFANTS?
ALL I KNOW IS THEY'RE GOING WITH A BETTER-KNOWN HAS-BEEN...
SOMEONE WHO'S USED REALITY T.V. TO DEFINE HIMSELF AS ONE.
UGH.
WHICH REMINDS ME: THAT OFFER TO DO YOUR OWN REALITY SHOW STILL STANDS...
NO WAY. FORGET IT. OUT OF THE QUESTION!
IT'LL BE YOUR OWN SHOW, GUY!
YES, WHERE I'D BE REFERENCING MY FUCKED-UP TABLOID EXPLOITS ON A WEEKLY BASIS...
I REFUSE TO GO THERE, BARRY.
I HAVE MY PRIDE, YOU KNOW.

IN THAT CASE YOU OUGHT TO REVIVE YOUR STAND-UP CAREER...
YOU KNOW, GET BACK TO YOUR ROOTS...
I TRIED THAT, REMEMBER?
THE AUDIENCE KEPT THROWING MY TABLOID PAST IN MY FACE!
SO? ROLL WITH IT, THEN!
I DON'T WANT TO "ROLL WITH IT"!
SURE, I'LL PLAY UP THE "WASHED-UP" ANGLE...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO THE SORDID DETAILS...
I WANT PEOPLE TO FORGET ALL OF THAT STUFF...
(YES, WELL, GOOD LUCK WITH THAT)...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
NOTHING... NEVER MIND...
SIGH...
LOOK, BARRY, I APPRECIATE YOUR HANGING IN THERE WITH ME, I REALLY DO...
BUT LET'S FACE IT: THIS ISN'T WORKING...
WE AGREED TO GIVE EACH OTHER A YEAR...
AND IT HASN'T BEEN A YEAR YET!
YOU WERE MY FORMER AGENT'S ASSISTANT...
YOU TOOK ME ON WHEN HE DUMPED ME, MAINLY TO GET YOUR OWN CAREER GOING...
WELL, SURE...
SURELY YOU'VE GOT OTHER CLIENTS BY NOW.
THOUGH YOU'RE STILL MY BIGGEST CLIENT...
I AM?
HOO-BOY... THAT'S THE SADDEST NEWS I'VE HEARD ALL DAY...
SO NOW WHAT?
AM I FIRED?

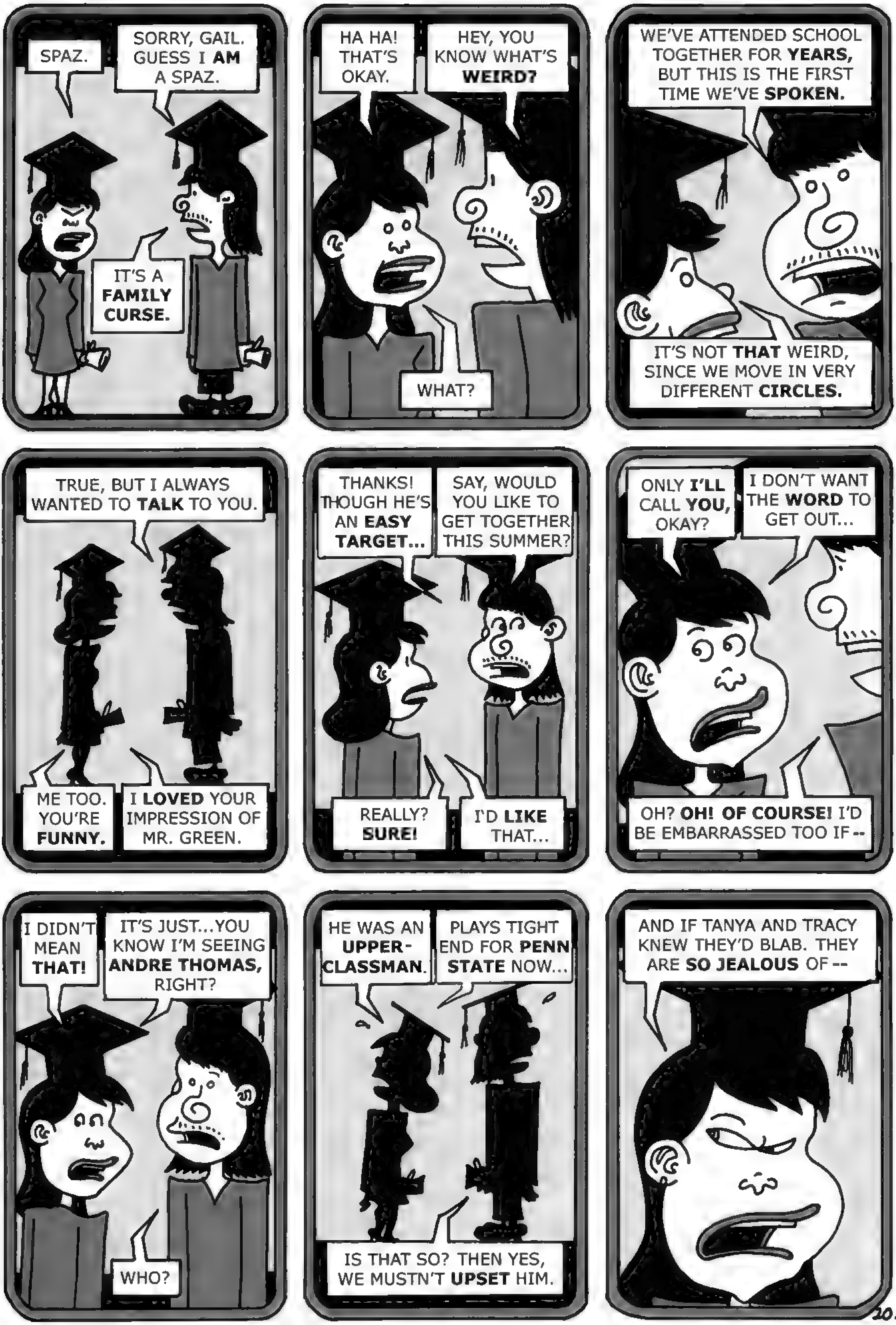
ALL I'M SAYING IS—
RING! RING!
—CRAP. HOLD ON...
HELLO? OH, HEY, WHAT'S UP...
REALLY? SHIT...
DON'T WORRY. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT...
I SAID I'D TAKE CARE OF IT!
?
WHO WAS THAT?
MY EX...
I'M BUYING HER OUT OF OUR OLD CONDO...
ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN, THAT IS...
SNAP!
ONLY THE LAST CHECK I SENT HER BOUNCED...
IF I DON'T MAKE A LOT OF MONEY QUICK SHE'S GONNA RAISE HOLY HELL...
LIKE I SAID: REALITY T.V. IS CALLING...
AND LIKE I SAID: NO THANKS.
BESIDES, I'VE GOT ANOTHER PROSPECT...
ONE THAT'S SLIGHTLY LESS HUMILIATING.
OH? AND WHY AM I NOT IN ON THIS?
IT ISN'T SHOW BIZ RE-LATED...
I AGREED TO BE A GUINEA PIG, BASICALLY...
THE TYPE OF GIG THEY ONLY OFFER TO CRIMINALS LIKE ME...
OH.
?
SAY, CAN YOU SPOT ME A TWENTY?
I NEED TO BUY MORE CIGARETTES.


THE FOLLOWING MONDAY...
"...TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE, SPAZ"...
"WHAT, ARE YOU PREJUDICED AGAINST SPASTICS?"
"YES, I AM A SPAZ—AND PROUD OF IT!"
GUY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M TRYING OUT DIFFERENT COMEBACKS TO GAIL MALONE'S "SPAZ" REMARK...
"...YOU AND WHAT ARMY?"
I REALIZE THAT, BUT IS IT REALLY WORTH THIS MUCH EFFORT?
HEY! YOU SAID THIS WAS MY GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO—
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
WE'RE NOT HERE TO HELP YOU HONE YOUR STAND-UP ROUTINE.
I KNOW THAT!
UH... WHAT DID YOU MEAN?
LOOK, YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE HERE, RIGHT?
I MEAN, THERE'S NO REAL CONSEQUENCES TO ANYTHING YOU DO OR SAY.
YEAH? SO?
SO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY SHE SAID THAT, DON'T YOU?
SO WHY NOT JUST ASK HER?
ISN'T THAT MORE WORTHWHILE THAN A SNAPPY COMEBACK?

I SUPPOSE...
BUT HOW WILL I LEARN THAT FROM A VIDEO GAME?
TRY IT AND FIND OUT!
AND STOP USING HUMOR AS A DEFENSE MECHANISM FOR ONCE...
FINE, WHAT-EVER YOU SAY...
SPAZ.
WHY DID YOU SAY THAT, GAIL MALONE?
BECAUSE YOU STEPPED ON MY FOOT AND SCUFFED MY SHOE! SEE?
?!?
BZZT
GUY! WHY ARE YOU STOPPING?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
THAT'S WHY SHE CALLED ME A SPAZ!?
BECAUSE I STEPPED ON HER STUPID FOOT?!
SOUNDS PLAUSIBLE TO ME...
NOW—
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
DO YOU OWN A TIME MACHINE?
OR DID YOU ASK HER?
WE HAVE OUR WAYS. NOW—
WHOA, DON'T TELL ME YOU TALKED TO THE REAL GAIL MALONE...
YOU HAVEN'T DONE THAT MUCH "HOME-WORK" ON ME, HAVE YOU?
NO COMMENT...
NOW PLEASE DO WHAT WE'RE PAYING YOU TO DO AND LAY OFF THAT RESET BUTTON!
WHAT-EVER YOU SAY, "BOSS"...
BUT I'M CALLING BULLSHIT ON EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS FROM NOW ON...

...AND SCUFFED MY SHOE! SEE?
OH, SORRY. GUESS I AM A SPAZ...
HEY, THIS MIGHT SOUND OUT OF LEFT FIELD, BUT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HANG OUT WITH ME SOMETIME?
HANG OUT? REALLY?
LIKE ON A DATE?
WELL, NOTHING TOO FORMAL...
MORE LIKE A GETTING-TO-KNOW-YOU KINDA DEAL.
OH. WELL, SURE!
ARE YOU FREE THIS WEEKEND?
BZZT!
NOW WHAT?!
OKAY, I THINK I GET IT NOW...
THIS IS SOME KIND OF A PORN THING, RIGHT?
I BEG YOUR PARDON?
YOU KNOW, WHERE YOU PROJECT THE IMAGE OF SOME LOSER'S OLD CRUSH ON THIS THING...
ONLY NOW SHE'S TOTALLY COMPLIANT AND WILLING TO DO ANYTHING.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
HEY, I'M NOT KNOCKIN' IT. IN FACT, IT'S BRILLIANT!
I'D BUY STOCK IN THIS GIZMO RIGHT NOW!
IF I HAD ANY MONEY, THAT IS...
OKAY, TELL YOU WHAT...
WHY DON'T YOU TREAT IT LIKE IT IS A "PORN THING" FROM NOW ON?
THEN WE'LL SEE IF IT'S WORTH MARKETING AS SUCH...
YOU'RE ON!
HOPE YOU HAVE SOME TISSUES HANDY...
GUY! STOP MOVING YOUR ARMS!

HEY, GAIL! LET'S **FUCK!** RIGHT HERE AND NOW!
WHAT?
YOU HEARD ME. YOU **KNOW** YOU WANT IT. NOW **STRIP!**
POW
BZZT
WHAT THE FUCK?!?
MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY.
WHAT KIND OF PORN APP PUNCHES YOU IN THE FACE?
YOU'RE OVERTHINKING ALL THIS, GUY...
YOU HAVE YOUR WHOLE ADULT LIFE TO RELIVE, YET YOU CAN'T SEEM TO GET PAST THE FIRST MINUTE OF IT, WHAT WITH ALL OF THIS SECOND-GUESSING YOU'RE DOING...
MY NOSE ACTUALLY HURTS...
YOU'RE MAKING GOOD MONEY FOR THIS TOO, GUY...
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST RELAX FOR ONCE AND ROLL WITH IT?
AND LAY OFF OF THAT RESET BUTTON!
RIGHT. RIGHT...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
IT'S JUST SO HARD NOT TO REEXAMINE A PAST EVENT LIKE THIS FROM EVERY POSSIBLE ANGLE...
BUT I'LL DO AS YOU SAY AND JUST "ROLL WITH IT"...
THANK YOU.



SPAZ.
SORRY, GAIL. GUESS I **AM** A SPAZ.
IT'S A **FAMILY CURSE.**
HA HA! THAT'S OKAY.
HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT'S **WEIRD?**
WHAT?
WE'VE ATTENDED SCHOOL TOGETHER FOR **YEARS,** BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE **SPOKEN.**
IT'S NOT **THAT** WEIRD, SINCE WE MOVE IN VERY DIFFERENT **CIRCLES.**
TRUE, BUT I ALWAYS WANTED TO **TALK** TO YOU.
ME TOO. YOU'RE **FUNNY.**
I **LOVED** YOUR IMPRESSION OF MR. GREEN.
THANKS! THOUGH HE'S AN **EASY TARGET...**
SAY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET TOGETHER THIS SUMMER?
REALLY? **SURE!**
I'D **LIKE** THAT...
ONLY **I'LL** CALL **YOU,** OKAY?
I DON'T WANT THE **WORD** TO GET OUT...
OH? **OH! OF COURSE!** I'D BE EMBARRASSED TOO IF --
I DIDN'T MEAN **THAT!**
IT'S JUST...YOU KNOW I'M SEEING **ANDRE THOMAS,** RIGHT?
WHO?
HE WAS AN **UPPER-CLASSMAN.**
PLAYS TIGHT END FOR **PENN STATE** NOW...
IS THAT SO? THEN YES, WE MUSTN'T **UPSET** HIM.
AND IF TANYA AND TRACY KNEW THEY'D BLAB. THEY ARE **SO JEALOUS** OF --

BZZT
YOU SPOKE TO HER, DIDN'T YOU?
EXCUSE ME? WHO—
-GUY! WHY?!
"TRACY AND TANYA"; GAIL'S OLD POSSE...
HOW ELSE COULD YOU HAVE KNOWN THAT?
OH FOR GOODNESS' SAKE...
MS. MALONE LISTED THEM AS HER "POSSE" IN HER YEARBOOK CAPTION...
AND ANDRE THOMAS AS HER BOY-FRIEND...
THIS IS FROM YOUR YEARBOOK, GUY!
HMPF.
I TOLD YOU WE'D DONE SOME RESEARCH BEFORE-HAND...
BUT OUR BUDGET DIDN'T ALLOW FOR ANYTHING AS OBSES-SIVE AS WHAT YOU'RE SUGGESTING.
FINE. I WON'T ARGUE WITH YOU.
STILL... MY MR. GREEN IMPRESSION...
HOW DO YOU KNOW THOSE THINGS?
=AHEM!= WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WE HAVE A LOT OF GROUND TO COVER.
NOT TODAY...
I'VE GOT A BAD CASE OF THE PARANOIAS...
I NEED TO THINK THINGS OVER...
BUT—
SLAM
NOT A VERY COMPLIANT SUBJECT YOU CHOSE, IS HE?
SHHH! LET ME THINK...

THIS IS MY FAULT...
I UNDERESTIMATED HOW WEIRD THIS WOULD BE FOR HIM...
MAYBE WE SHOULD STRAP HIM IN NEXT TIME...
OR AT LEAST DISABLE THAT STUPID RESET BUTTON.
OUT OF THE QUESTION!
I MADE IT CLEAR FROM THE START THAT WE WON'T BE GIVING HIM THE CLOCKWORK ORANGE TREATMENT!
THAT WOULD BE CRUEL!
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT THAT THING HAS BEEN HAMPERING OUR PROGRESS...
AND OUR BACKERS NEVER WANTED IT IN THE FIRST PLACE...
I KNOW! I KNOW! DON'T REMIND ME...
I JUST HAVE TO RETHINK MY WHOLE APPROACH...
MAKE IT LESS... OVERWHELMING SOMEHOW...
FIRST THING TOMORROW, WHAT WE'LL DO IS—
"TOMORROW"?
DO YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL BE HERE TOMORROW?
HE HAS TO BE!
WHAT ELSE IS HE GONNA DO?
WELL, WHAT IF HIS CAREER DOES REVIVE?
WHAT IF HE DOES AGREE TO DO THAT REALITY SHOW?
BELIEVE ME, IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN...
OUR "PEOPLE" ALREADY KILLED THAT SITCOM GUEST SPOT LAST WEEK...
THAT WAS OUR DOING?
JEEZ...THIS WHOLE PROJECT IS ALREADY RATHER CRUEL, IF YOU ASK ME.
SIGH...
I KNOW.

This Reset *series from the illustrious Mr. Bagge marks the beginning of a tide of new Dark Horse Originals projects. Matt Kindt's* 3 Story: Secret Files of the Giant Man *one-shot comic is on sale* right now *(Look for it on the stands!), and Matt's treat-filled monthly* Mind MGMT *series begins next month. The legendary Gilbert Hernandez unleashes his apocalyptic* Fatima: The Blood Spinners *comic series in June, and Larry Marder—*Beanworld *creator and current board president for the Comic Book Legal Defense fund—has an all-new* Tales of the Beanworld *color hardcover set to hit stores at the end of June, too. Juan Díaz Canales and Juanjo Guarnido's* Blacksad, *one of our Dark Horse Originals bestsellers, will see its eagerly anticipated sequel—*Blacksad: A Silent Hell*—released as a hardcover on July 11, 2012. We're already excited about Jeff Parker and Erika Moen's* Bucko *webcomics collection, which is coming in September, and we'll probably be able to squeeze a few other unique surprises into 2012! Stay tuned! So that's our Dark Horse Originals line rundown—now for some pure* Reset *love. I asked fellow editor (and fellow longtime Peter Bagge fan) Brendan Wright to check out* Reset #1 *early and contribute to our first letters page, and Mr. Wright was happy to take a proof set to a pub for a stimulating read. Thanks, Brendan! And thank you, dear reader! Please use the e-mail address above to send in your letter or fan art piece.*

—Philip R. Simon

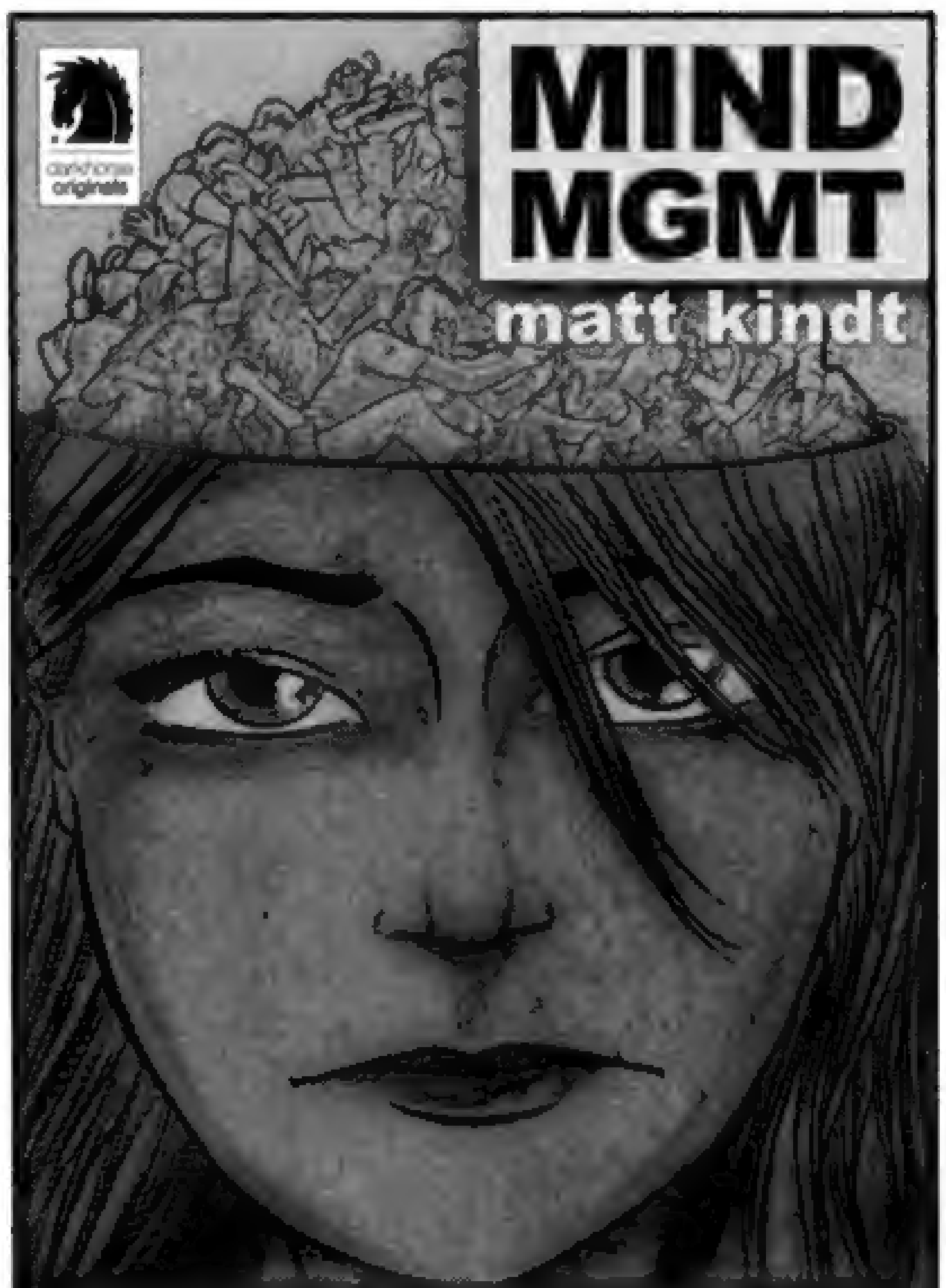
A man can't live on *Hate* alone (well, maybe one could if it weren't on an annual schedule), so I'm thrilled to be getting a more regular Bagge fix for the next few months. The first issue of *Reset* is largely setting us up for what to expect from the next three, but it's already got me eager to find out what this technology is really being tested for and, just as importantly, what the tabloid scandal that brought down Guy was.

Guy's an unpleasant character, no doubt, but like the train wreck his career's apparently become, he's hard to look away from, and I enjoyed seeing how far back his damage goes in the first flashback. Peter's insight that the incidents that loom so large in memory and helped mess us up were probably in reality insignificant and stupid feels true, so the answer to Guy's lifelong question of why Gail called him a spaz made me laugh out loud.

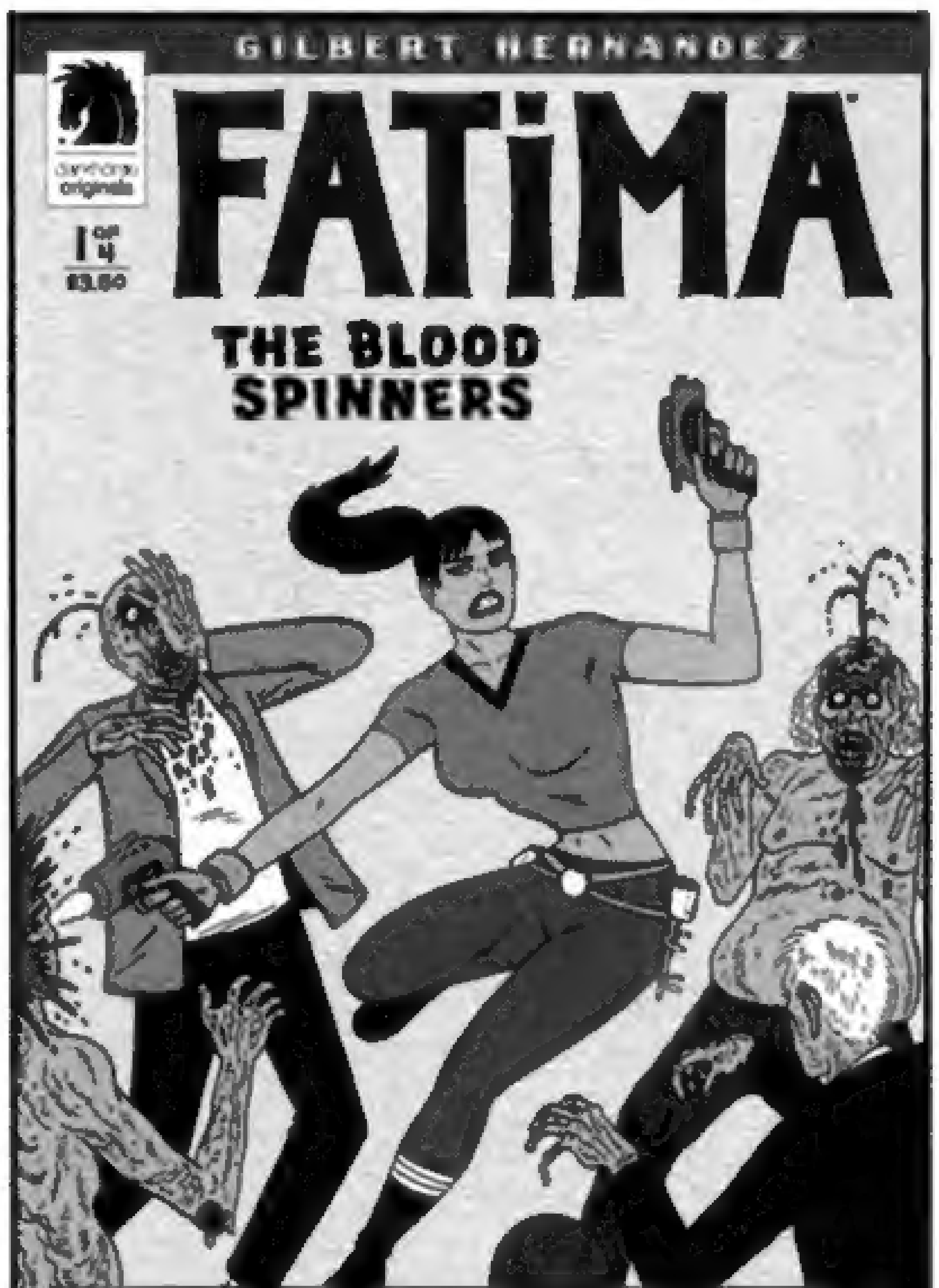
Overall, I love the concept for the series, which is simultaneously ridiculous and weirdly plausible, with culture critics like Jane McGonigal positing that games, generally computer based, can be used to solve all kinds of problems, both personal and societal. Good to see the cynical, mean-spirited side of that theory get some airtime through Peter's antisocial protagonist and cold scientists. Looking forward to the rest!

—Brendan Wright
Portland, Oregon

Next month in *Reset* #2—
Guy's a guinea pig! And more details emerge about the Reset experiment. *Reset* #2 is on sale May 16, 2012!



On sale May 23, 2012—
Matt Kindt's *Mind MGMT* #1, with a variant cover by Gilbert Hernandez!



Gilbert Hernandez presents *Fatima: The Blood Spinners* #1—with a variant cover by Peter Bagge. On sale June 20, 2012!

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DARK HORSE

APRIL 2012

HORSEPOWER

STARTING NOW AND THROUGH THE NEXT FOUR GLORIOUS MONTHS, a slew of great Joss Whedon–related titles will land in stores, and we're not complaining. To help keep you updated on all things Whedon, I've pulled together this guide to help you in the months ahead. Cut this page out, put it on your refrigerator, corkboard, or calendar, and keep yourself in the know!

First up is **Buffy Season 9** and **Angel & Faith**—both are **monthly** series so you *never* have to do without!

Next is **Dollhouse: Epitaphs, on sale April 11.** What started as a custom-made comic to accompany the DVD/Blu-ray edition of the *Dollhouse* television series very quickly evolved into a comic-book miniseries helmed by show writers Andrew Chambliss, Maurissa Tancharoen, and Jed Whedon. The series follows characters new and old in their ongoing journey to save humankind in the aftermath of a tech-based virus that takes over human consciousness and eventually leads to an apocalypse. With art by *Buffy* alum Cliff Richards, this book is one you won't want to miss!

May is a rather full month for Whedon goodies. Joss Whedon's blockbuster extravaganza *The Avengers* opens May 4 (so go see the movie and support Joss), and then on Saturday, May 5, head over to your local comics shop to buy some great comics—and take home some free comics, too. We invite readers to check out some of my favorite titles for FREE when *Buffy* Season 9 and *Serenity: Firefly Class 03-K64* short stories appear in *Free Comic Book Day*. YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THESE COMICS. *Buffy* writer Andrew Chambliss takes our heroine on a space adventure that pays homage to one of the greatest sci-fi films of all time, while *Serenity* scribe Zack Whedon explores further the misadventures of Captain Malcolm Reynolds and his loyal crew. Be sure to visit your local retailer for **FCBD, *free* on May 5.** Finally, check out the oversized, expanded, beautiful, deluxe hardcover edition of *Buffy* Season 8. This first volume collects Joss Whedon's first story arc, *The Long Way Home*, and Brian K. Vaughan's *No Future for You*. This and the future S8 volumes will look especially lovely on a bookshelf (remember *real* bookshelves?), and at $29.99, it's a steal for what extras await you inside. **Buffy Season 8 Library Edition Vol. 1 hardcover is on sale May 30.**

As we swing into June, readers who harbor a special affinity for the sultry, evil, and oft-crazy vampire Drusilla will squeal with delight when the miniseries **Drusilla: Run & Catch launches June 20.** Written by Juliet Landau—the actress who played this compelling character—and illustrated by Cliff Richards and Tim Seeley, the book takes you from present-day Britain back through time to events that helped shape the bloodthirsty villain we know and love today.

Completing the month of June is Christos Gage and Rebekah Isaacs's first collection of the incredibly awesome *Angel & Faith* series, *Live Through This*. Following *Buffy* Season 8, Angel was essentially exiled to London, and Faith was charged with helping her friend recuperate after the loss of one of their dearest allies. Now that Angel is back on his feet, the rebellious and volatile Faith will have to make sure any plans he has for redemption don't go too far—like raising the dead. Check out **Angel & Faith Vol. 1 on June 20.**

Then we'll bring it back to the girl who started it all with **Buffy Season 9 Vol. 1 on July 4.** This first volume, *Freefall*, written by Joss Whedon and Andrew Chambliss with art from Season 8 artist Georges Jeanty, follows Buffy in San Francisco as she struggles to make ends meet, make new friends (while grasping for the old ones), and discover a life she can call her very own in a world without magic. Returning to the vision that made the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* television show resonate with so many die-hard fans, Season 9 gets readers closer to their favorite characters than ever before.

What'd I tell ya? That's a lot of Joss Whedon love over the course of four months, and I assure you—you won't want to miss any of it.

editor

DARK HORSE HEROES!

Recognize the name **Andrew Chambliss**? Learn it now! Andrew is the DH series writer for *Buffy* Season 9. You might also know Andrew from the *Dollhouse* comics series and television show, as well as *The Vampire Diaries* and *Once Upon a Time*? He's a trooper for sticking it out with two demanding editors and the esteemed Joss Whedon. We can assure you—team *Buffy* is not making Andrew's life simple . . .

You like him because he's a scoundrel . . . with a heart of gold. **Han Solo**, the galaxy's slickest smuggler, isn't known for the most fail-proof plans, but he makes up for it with a fast ship and a big, furry first mate/best friend who packs a punch and sometimes has a little more sense and sensitivity than his rascally captain. Look for a special story featuring this *Star Wars* hero on the upcoming Free Comic Book Day!

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